MARVEL COMICS
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SHADOW BURST!
PLUS 3 MORE ALL-NEW FEATURES

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

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Stan Lee Presents:

WOLVERINE "BLACK SHADOW WHITE SHADOW" 1

WRITER — Marv Wolfman
ART — John Buscema
LETTERER — Phil Felix
COLORIST — Nel Yomtov

"ASSAULT" — PART 9 OF 10

Logan discovers that both Black Shadow and White Shadow are the projections of a mutant schizophrenic with two personalities. One seeks to destroy everything it touches, the other tries to prevent that destruction. But when the two meet, nothing can withstand their combined fury.

DEVIL SLAYER "LOST SOULS" 9

WRITER — Dwight Zimmerman
PENCILER — Rodney Ramos
INKER — Mark McKenna
LETTERER — Janice Chiang
COLORIST — John Wilcox

"ADRIFT" — PART 1 OF 4

Eric Simon Payne — Devil Slayer — has always been a rebel without purpose or direction. Enlistment in the Army, service in Vietnam, a chaotic interracial marriage, life as an Agent of Fortune, assassin for a secret cult led by the demon Balthazar, and a failed career as a Defender have left him not only alienated from Mankind and his own humanity, but also ripe for selection as a servant of Mephisto. Or has it?

AQUARIAN 17

WRITER — Fabian Nicieza
PENCILER — Hugh Haynes
INKER — Fred Fredericks
LETTERER — Agustin Mas
COLORIST — Steve Mattson

"A GIFT OF DEATH"

He is a wanderer from the stars. On Earth, he has tried to find a path to enlightenment. He seeks to bring light and hope to his adoptive world, though his powers are the very opposite of his intentions. He has a very long road ahead of him. And every day, he takes another small step forward . . .

SUB-MARINER 25

WRITER — Hollis Bright
PENCILER — Dell Barras
INKER — Marshall Rogers
LETTERER — Phil Felix
COLORIST — Paty Cockrum

"THE EYE THAT SEES"

The Sub-Mariner, deposed King of Atlantis, continues his anxious search for Marrina's hatchlings throughout the ocean world. While exploring the Northern Atlantic, he is suddenly distracted by a lonely song of distress.

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BLACK SHADOW!
WHITE SHADOW!
HSIAO WAS DEAD. CH'UN WAS DEAD. ONLY ME AN' MAI WERE STILL BREATHIN'.
AN' IF I DIDN'T MOVE FAST IT WOULD BE DOWN TO ONLY ME!
"PATCH", DO NOT TRY TO SAVE ME!
RUN!
NO WAY, LADY--
CHAPTER IX:
FEATURING:
WOLVERINE IN ASSAULT!

--NOT MY STYLE!
DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS TRYIN' TO DO.
I KNEW FROM OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS THAT I COULDN'T TOUCH BLACK SHADOW--
--BUT HE COULD BECOME SOLID WHEN HE HAD TO.
WHEN IT WAS TO HIS ADVANTAGE.
WARNED YOU... WARNED YOU TO LEAVE.
NOW TOO LATE. ALL WILL DIE!
WE/US/ME...BOTH OF ME...MUST DESTROY EACH OTHER OR WE WILL GROW MORE POWERFUL...
...THEN WORLD WILL DIE!
WASN'T GOING TO ARGUE. I KNEW HE HAD THE POWER.
BOTH SHADOWS, WHITE AN' BLACK, WERE PHYSICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF ONE MAN...
...AN ALMOST MINDLESS, PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIC MUTANT WHOSE SPLIT PERSONALITY WAS AT WAR WITH ITSELF!

THE BLACK SHADOW, THE DARK SIDE, FORMED FIRST. I SAW IT TOUCH AN' VAPORIZE A CITY BLOCK.
WHITE SHADOW WAS THE REACTION TO ITS DESTRUCTIVE SIDE...
...CREATED AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT TO STOP HIS OWN RAMPAGE.
TWO SIDES OF ONE SICK AN' TWISTED MIND...
...AN' LIKE MATTER AN' ANTI-MATTER--
...WHEN THEY MET, EVERYTHIN' NEAR 'EM WAS SIMPLY ERASED!
DESTROY BOTH OF US...
...ONLY WAY TO SAVE ALL IS TO DESTROY OURSELF.
KRASH
SAW WHAT HE WAS PLANNIN'.
THE THING, PLANTED LIKE SOME IMMOVABLE MOUNTAIN IN HIS CHAIR, WAS TURNIN' AGAINST HIMSELF.
SUICIDE!

ONLY THE OTHER SIDE OF HIS MIND WASN'T GOING TO MAKE IT EASY FOR HIM TO DIE.
HE FOUGHT BACK AGAINST HIMSELF...
FIGURED HE NEEDED HELP.
SNIKT
TAKIN' LIVES IS NEVER EASY, BUT HOLDIN' BACK WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT HAS TO BE DONE...
...IS EVEN HARDER.
MAN--MOUNTAIN HAD TO DIE, SIMPLE AS THAT. AN' IF I HAD TO BE HIS KILLER --
-- THEM'S THE BREAKS. SWEAT OVER WHAT HAS TO BE DONE THEN YOU'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING.
BUT HE WASN'T GOING TO MAKE IT EASY ON ME.
DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE.
IF HE COULD MANIFEST TWO SHADOWS...
...WHAT PREVENTS HIM FROM CREATING MORE?

THERE WAS HALF A DOZEN BLACK SHADOWS AN' ONLY ONE WHITE.
ONLY ONE HOPE.

THEN THERE WAS NONE.
FWOOOOMM

HIS DARK SIDE WON OUT.
METAPHYSICS STINKS.

LIKE RATS THEY SWARMED OVER ME... THEIR VAPORIZIN' TOUCH ICE-COLD--
--SLICIN' THROUGH MY ADAMANTIUM SKELETON.
IF THIS KEPT UP, NOT EVEN MY MUTANT HEALIN' POWERS COULD SAVE ME.
YAAAGHHHH

MAI! FORGOT ABOUT HER.

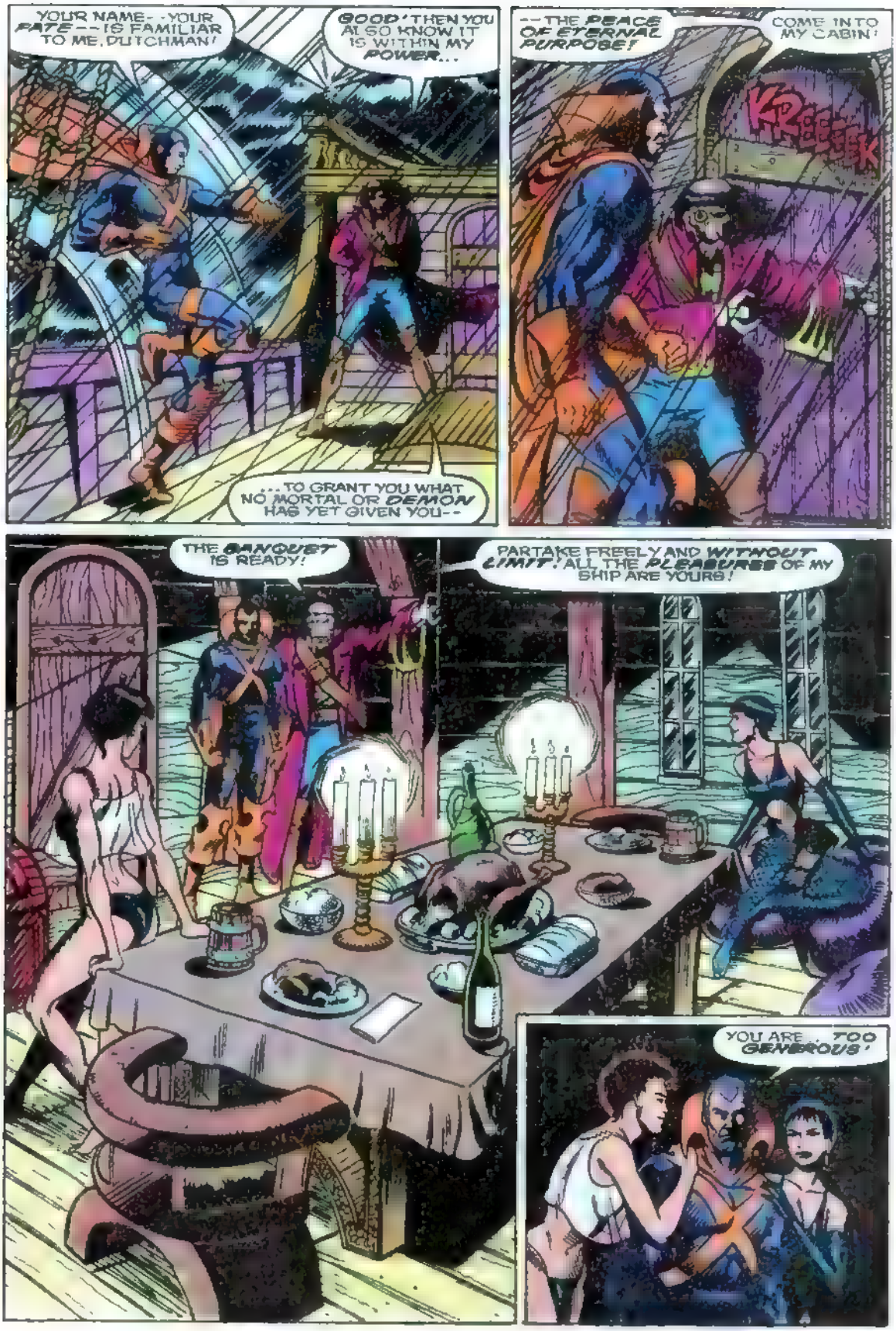
IT'S AN INTERESTING THING ABOUT RESOLVE AN' ADRENALINE--
--THEY FEED ON EACH OTHER, EMPOWER EACH OTHER.
THINK YOU'RE DOWN THEN SOMETHIN' STIRS YOU UP AGAIN.
YOU FIND SOME POWER INSIDE YOU THAT YOU FORGOT EXISTED.
MOTHERS CAN LIFT CARS TO SAVE THEIR BABIES. FLESH TORN, WEAK AND BLOODIED SUDDENLY HARDENS.
DOWN ONE MOMENT, UP THE NEXT.
LONG AS YOU NEVER GIVE UP.
LONG AS YOU KEEP FIGHTIN' YOU CAN'T BE PUT DOWN.
LEARNED THAT LONG AGO. TROUBLE IS, NOT EVERYBODY ELSE BELIEVES THAT, TOO.
"PATCH", IT IS ALL RIGHT...
I AM PREPARED TO DIE.
I AM READY TO JOIN ALL THOSE WHO HAD LOVED ME.

MAYBE SHE WAS READY, BUT I WASN'T COOPERATIN'.
AN' MAYBE LIFE REALLY DOES STINK--
--BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO TURN OVER AN' SIMPLY DIE.
YOU DON'T GIVE UP.
THE WORSE THE ODDS ARE...
...THE MORE YOU TAKE 'EM ON.
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHIN' WORTH FIGHTIN' FOR.

MY RIGHT HAND WAS BROKEN AT THE WRIST. MY LEG WAS TORN UP AN' BLEEDIN'.
BLOOD WAS FILLIN' UP BEHIND MY EYES AN' ITS SALT MADE THE CUTS IN MY MOUTH STING LIKE BLAZES.
WOULD'VE BEEN EASY TO GIVE UP.
EASY, YEAH.
JUST WOULDN'T BE ME.
NOW THERE WAS NOTHIN' BETWEEN MAN-MOUNTAIN AN' ME...
...JUST AS THERE WAS NOTHIN' BETWEEN HIS KILLER BLACK SHADOW AN' MAI.
ROCKS AN' HARD PLACES.
NEXT ISSUE: THE CONCLUSION!

His name is Eric Simon Payne..
Like Wolverine like The Punisher. His history is written with the blood of his enemies
Pity him. The more he learned how to kill, the more he forgot how to live.
Only now does he realize the real price he has paid for his slayings
His ties to his past his masters his wife. All are gone!
KRAKA-BOOM
He is an outcast... devoid of purpose. He is one of the
Lost Souls
Devil-Slayer in
Part 1
Adrift

"CALLED IT WHAT YOU DO NOW A SIN? NAY, IT IS A SIGNAL!
"AND MANY SHALL DIE FROM ITS CONSEQUENCES!"
HIS SPIRIT GONE--ENT WHAT IS THIS NOW EMERGING FROM THE CLOUDS?
A SHIP! AND ONE WITH NO CREW! HOW--?
FOOL! INSTEAD OF WASHING AWAY YOUR SINS...
...THIS ARROGANT CATHARSIS HAS ONLY CONDEMNED YOU MORE!
BEGONE, LORD OF LIES!
WHAT NEED DOES A GHOST SHIP HAVE OF A CREW, ASSASSIN, WHEN ITS CAPTAIN BE...
...THE FLYING DUTCHMAN!
RETURN TO YOUR REALM OF THE DEAD, BALTHAZAR! I COMMIT NO SIN!
SO, IT IS YOU WHO MAKES THE INNOCENT ELEMENTS THE VICTIMS OF YOUR RAGE!
COME ABOARD, ASSASSIN! THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO PARLEY!

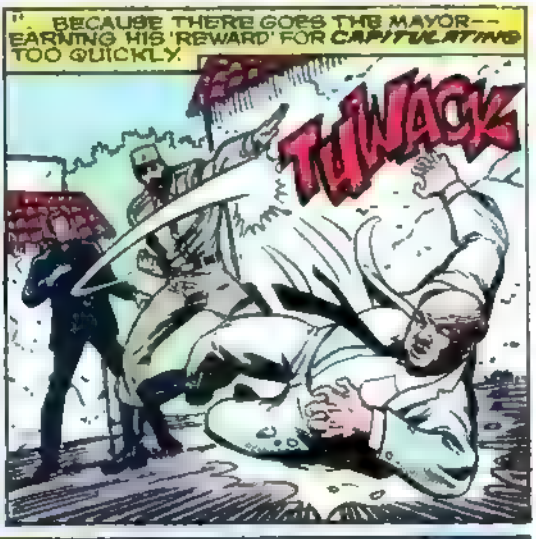

YOUR NAME--YOUR FATE--IS FAMILIAR TO ME, DUTCHMAN!
GOOD! THEN YOU ALSO KNOW IT IS WITHIN MY POWER...
...TO GRANT YOU WHAT NO MORTAL OR DEMON HAS YET GIVEN YOU--
--THE PEACE OF ETERNAL PURPOSE!
COME IN TO MY CABIN!
KREEEEEK
THE BANQUET IS READY!
PARTAKE FREELY AND WITHOUT LIMIT! ALL THE PLEASURES OF MY SHIP ARE YOURS!
YOU ARE... TOO GENEROUS!

TO ONE WITH A REPUTATION AS SOAKED IN BLOOD AS YOURS? NONSENSE!
YOUR EFFORTS ENRICHED THE REALM OF MY MASTER WITH MANY EXTRAORDINARY SOULS!
YET NOT ONCE DID YOU DEMAND PAYMENT FOR YOUR SERVICES
THIS GENEROSITY HAD EARNED YOU THE GRATITUDE OF MEPHISTO!
BUT IT IS TIME FOR SUCH HIGH-MINDED ALTRUISM TO CEASE!
THAT IS WHY I AM HERE--TO OFFER YOU THIS!
YOU WILL FIND THE REWARDS OF POWER, WEALTH AND WOMEN IT PROMISES ARE MORE THAN WORTH THE SMALL COST REQUESTED.
THE "SMALL COST" BEING, MY SOUL!
NEVER!
TELL YOUR MASTER THIS! MY SOUL IS NOT FOR SALE--AT ANY PRICE!
THRASH

HAR--SUCH BLUSTER! SUCH OUTRAGE! SUCH WELL-DISGUISED FEAR OF THE TRUTH!
YOUR SOUL IS ALREADY LOST!
ALL THAT REMAINS UNDECIDED IS WHICH UNDERWORLD LORD WILL POSSESS IT!
YOUR FEAR AMUSES ME, ASSASSIN!
MISTS SWIRLING ABOUT ME AT HIS COMMAND!
WHHO
OOOSH
A PRELUDE TO AN ATTACK!
AND BECAUSE I AM AMUSED THE OFFER WILL STAND--BUT NOT FOR LONG!
I SHALL LEAVE YOU HERE TO PONDER WHAT I HAVE SAID. ACCEPT SOON--OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!
I'M ALONE IN A WILDERNESS WHERE THE AIR IS HEAVY WITH SUBTROPICAL HEAT--
--AND DEATH!
AN OMINOUS ATMOSPHERE FITTING FOR UNHOLY CONTEMPLATION.
KPOW
A GUNSHOT FROM BEYOND THAT GROVE...

SO THIS IS THE REASON FOR THE AURA OF DEATH MY PSYCHIC SENSES DETECTED--
--CIVIL WAR!
MUST USE MY PSYCHIC SENSE TO REACH OUT--TRANSLATE--WHAT THEY'RE SAYING!
(IF YOU WISH TO FREE YOUR COUNTRY AND SAVE CENTRAL AMERICA FROM THE COMMUNISTS, SEÑOR MAYOR--*)
(--TELL ME WHEN THEIR ARMY WILL RETURN...OR I WILL ORDER YOUR PEOPLE SHOT!)
* ALL DIALOGUE TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH--TERRY.

ONE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A MERCENARY AS LONG AS I WAS TO KNOW HE'LL HAVE THE VILLAGERS SHOT ANYWAY--
--AFTER HE'S BROKEN THE VILLAGE ELDERS.
BETTER START PULLING THE WEAPONS I'LL NEED FROM MY SHADOW CLOAK..


"...BECAUSE THERE GOES THE MAYOR--EARNING HIS 'REWARD' FOR CAPITULATING TOO QUICKLY.
THWACK

"IF THE VILLAGE PRIEST CAN KEEP TALKING A LITTLE LONGER, I CAN DEFINITELY SAVE THEM ALL!!

BUT...
(YOU WASTE MY TIME, PRIEST)
(YOU MUST BE TAUGHT A LESSON! WHAT I DEMAND, YOU MUST GIVE--IMMEDIATELY! SINCE YOU DID NOT...)
(FIRING SQUAD, AT MY COMMAND--)
(--FIRE!)

SUDDENLY..
K-POW
POW
POW
MY GOD!
AMBUSH!
MY SHOULDER!
SO FAR SO GOOD!
IF I'M GOING TO SAVE THOSE VILLAGERS AND KEEP THOSE SOLDIERS FROM COMING BACK, I NEED THEM ALIVE...AND TERRIFIED!
TOO BAD I HAD TO USE MY PSYCHIC SENSE TO CREATE AN ILLUSION OVER MY COSTUME AND SHADOW CLOAK...
...BUT IF I ATTACKED AS DEVIL SLAYER, THE VILLAGERS'D PROBABLY MISTAKE ME FOR A DEMON!
BUDDA
BUDDA

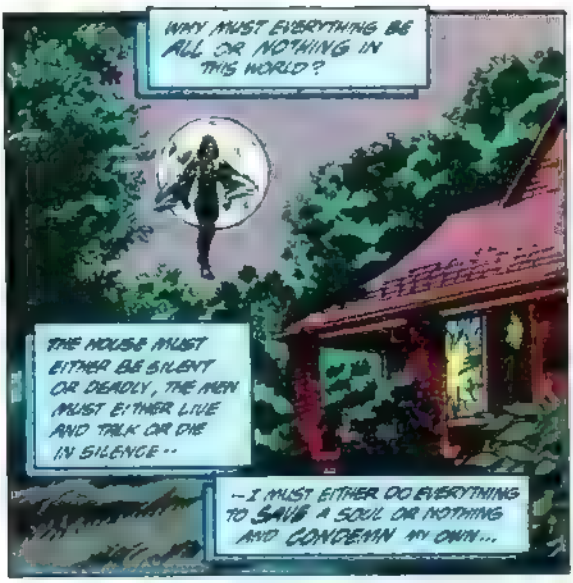
(SEÑOR, YOU HAVE EARNED THE UNDYING GRATITUDE OF JUDAH MIRANDA, MAYOR OF POTEGA! ANYTHING IN MY VILLAGE IS YOURS!)
(NO THANKS.)
EH--?
(YOU CAN GIVE ME NOTHING!)
(FATHER, THAT MAN WOULD HAVE MASSACRED YOUR PARISHIONERS...)
(...YET YOU GIVE HIM ABSOLUTION!)
(HE IS A FELLOW SINNER!)
(MY NAME IS FATHER PERONE. FOR MANY MONTHS I HAVE PRAYED FOR A SAVIOR OF THIS INNOCENT VILLAGE CAUGHT IN THE CROSS-ROADS OF WAR.
(YOUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED I AM ERIC SIMON PAYNE I WILL PROTECT YOUR VILLAGE)
(YES...)
(...YET I WONDER HOW YOU WILL PRESERVE LIFE WHEN IN YOUR EYES, ERIC PAYNE, I SEE ONLY DEATH!)
HAR--! THE FOOL FELL INTO MY TRAP--LIKE A DROWNING MAN GRASPING FOR ANY SORT OF LIFELINE!
HE'LL THINK THAT HE CAN SAVE HIS SOUL BY SAVING THAT VILLAGE!
BY THE TIME HE DISCOVERS HE CANNOT--IT'LL BE TOO LATE! HIS SOUL WILL UFLONG TO MEPHISTO!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE:
WAR!!

A GIFT OF DEATH
I HAVE LISTENED FOR SOUND BETWEEN THE BEATINGS OF A HEART AND FOUND NOTHING THERE
I HAVE SOUGHT TO WATCH GRASS GROW. BUT COULD NOT SEE SO MUCH HAPPEN SO SLOWLY
I HAVE FELT THE WARMTH OF LIFE AND THE COLD OF DEATH NESTLED IN MY ARMS AND HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO NOTE THE DIFFERENCE.
I WALK THE WORLD, SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS I ASK AND QUESTIONS FOR THE ANSWERS I KNOW.
I AM
AQUARIAN
I AM EVERYTHING I AM NOTHING I AM ALL IN-BETWEEN

I AM HERE NOW, AND THEY ARE DRIVING FAST ENOUGH NOT TO BE...
...BUT, NO...
...PERHAPS THEY ARE STOPPING FOR SOME ENLIGHTENMENT?
LOOKADIS HERE, WE GOT US A REG'LAR "MONKIE"!
HAH!
CAN'T LET HIM IDENTIFY US--
PERHAPS NOT.
BA'RRAK
WHAT THE--
NOTHIN' HAPPENED!
PROOF
THE NOTHINGNESS THAT SURROUNDS ME EXTENDS OUTWARD.
THE NULL-FIELD DEFERS ALL KINETIC MOTION...
I EXTEND THE FIELD TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER ACTS OF AGGRESSION.
HE DID IT AGAIN!
WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
BA'RRAK

I HAVE FOUND, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW WILL BE FOUND IN THE NOTHINGNESS OF MY FOAM.
AS MY FIELD ENVELOPES THE CAR, EFFECTIVELY PREVENTING ITS MECHANICAL SYSTEMS FROM FUNCTIONING, THE IRONY IS NOT LOST ON ME...
?
THEY'RE TOO SCARED TO MOVE OR TALK OR BREATHE...
SLZZTCH
...BUT I'M NOT.
I HAVE RETRACTED MY NULL-FIELD.
WHY ARE YOU SHOOTING AT ME?
WHY ARE YOU DRIVING SO RECKLESSLY?
NO! WE CAN'T TALK!
?
NO!
BARAK

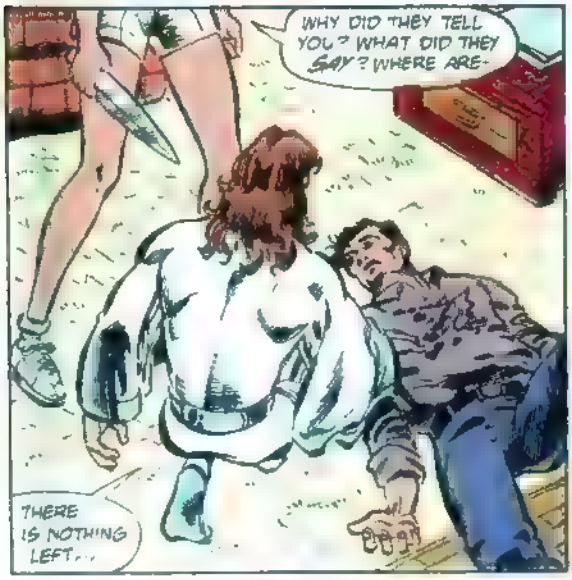
WE CAN'T TALK TA YA --
DON'T..
THE FIELD PROJECTS OUTWARD AS QUICKLY AS HE GRABS FOR HIS PARTNER'S GUN..
BAK
--BUT NOT QUICKLY ENOUGH TO PREVENT THE TRIGGER FROM BEING PULLED!
THE EXPLOSION IS DEAFENED BY THE FIELD; THE BULLET'S FLEETING MOMENT OF LIFE ENDED.
I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO DEMEAN THE GIFT OF LIFE SO BASILY!
AND YOU WILL TELL ME WHY YOU AND YOUR FRIEND HAVE BEEN SO DESPERATE TO PERPETUATE MY IGNORANCE...
THE HOUSE IS FIVE MILES FROM THE SCENE OF MY ABERRATION IT IS FROM HERE THAT THE TWO MEN WERE FLEEING
MY NULL-FIELD NEGATES THE PLANET'S ETERNAL CYCLE OF PULLING AND PUSHING I WALK ON AIR.
THE STILLNESS OF THE HOUSE BELIES THE RECENT ACTS OF VIOLENCE IT HAS WITNESSED


WHY MUST EVERYTHING BE ALL OR NOTHING IN THIS WORLD?
THE HOUSE MUST EITHER BE SILENT OR DEADLY, THE MEN MUST EITHER LIVE AND TALK OR DIE IN SILENCE--
--I MUST EITHER DO EVERYTHING TO SAVE A SOUL OR NOTHING AND CONDEMN MY OWN...

KNOCK KNOCK
I GROW TIRED OF SEEING SO MUCH AND FINDING SO LITTLE.

HAVE YOU NOTIFIED THE AUTHORITIES OF YOUR HUSBAND'S MURDER?
WHAT?

I SAID--
I HEARD YOU--BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I ENCOUNTERED THE MEN WHO DID THIS A FEW MILES AWAY FROM HERE


WHY DID THEY TELL YOU? WHAT DID THEY SAY? WHERE ARE-
THERE IS NOTHING LEFT...

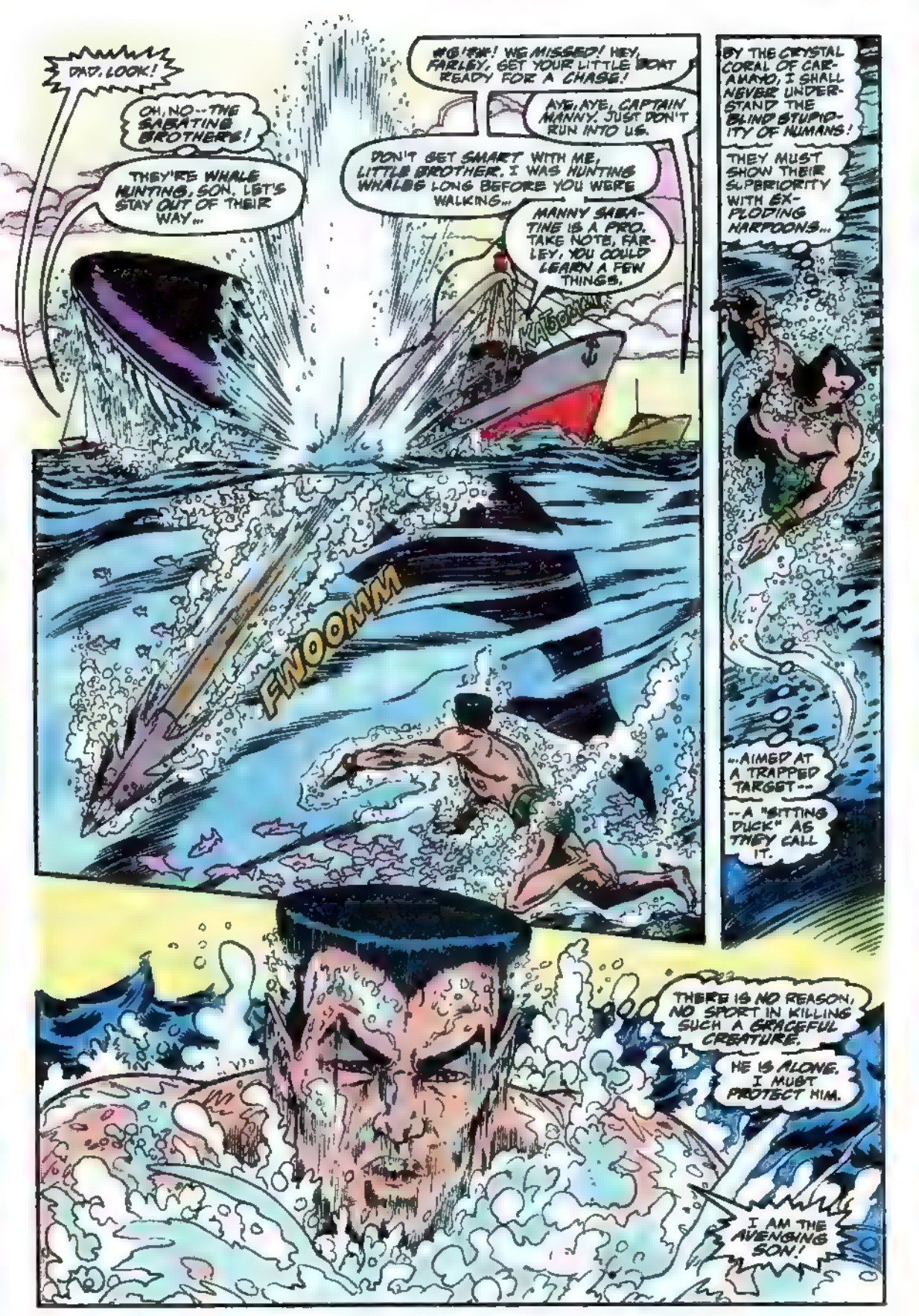
AGAIN, I ASK, WHY HAVEN'T YOU CALLED THE AUTHORITIES?
WOULDN'T MAKE A DIFF'RENCE--

--THE SHERRIFF'S ONE OF THEM...
THEM?
"THE WATCHDOGS. THEY KILLED MY HUSBAND."
"WHY?"
'COS MY HUSBAND WAS AN A.B.I. AGENT AN' THE ORDER FOUND OUT ABOUT 'IM.
HE WAS GONNA BUST THE ORDER WIDE OPEN-- GUN-RUNNING, BANK ROBBERIES, MURDER--EVERYTHING
"HE HAD COME DOWN HERE ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO. I FELL IN LOVE WITH 'IM. DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS NO GOVERNMENT MAN THEN.
"I EVEN HOOKED HIM UP WITH THE ORDER. GUESS THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED ALL 'LONG."
I HAVE HEARD OF MEN SUCH AS THESE-- THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE SUPERIOR AND IMPOSE THEIR WILL BY FEAR AND HATRED.
HOW DID YOU KNOW MEN SUCH AS THOSE OF THIS GROUP?
'COS ONE OF THE MEN IN THE 'DOGS... ONE OF THE MEN WHO KILLED MY HUSBAND... WAS MY--MY... BROTHER...
...THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT MY HUSBAND...
HOW?
I--I TOLD 'EM...
I TOLD MY BROTHER TO RUN AWAY... I LOVED MY HUSBAND, MISTER... BUT I COULDN'T LET MY BROTHER GO TO JAIL...

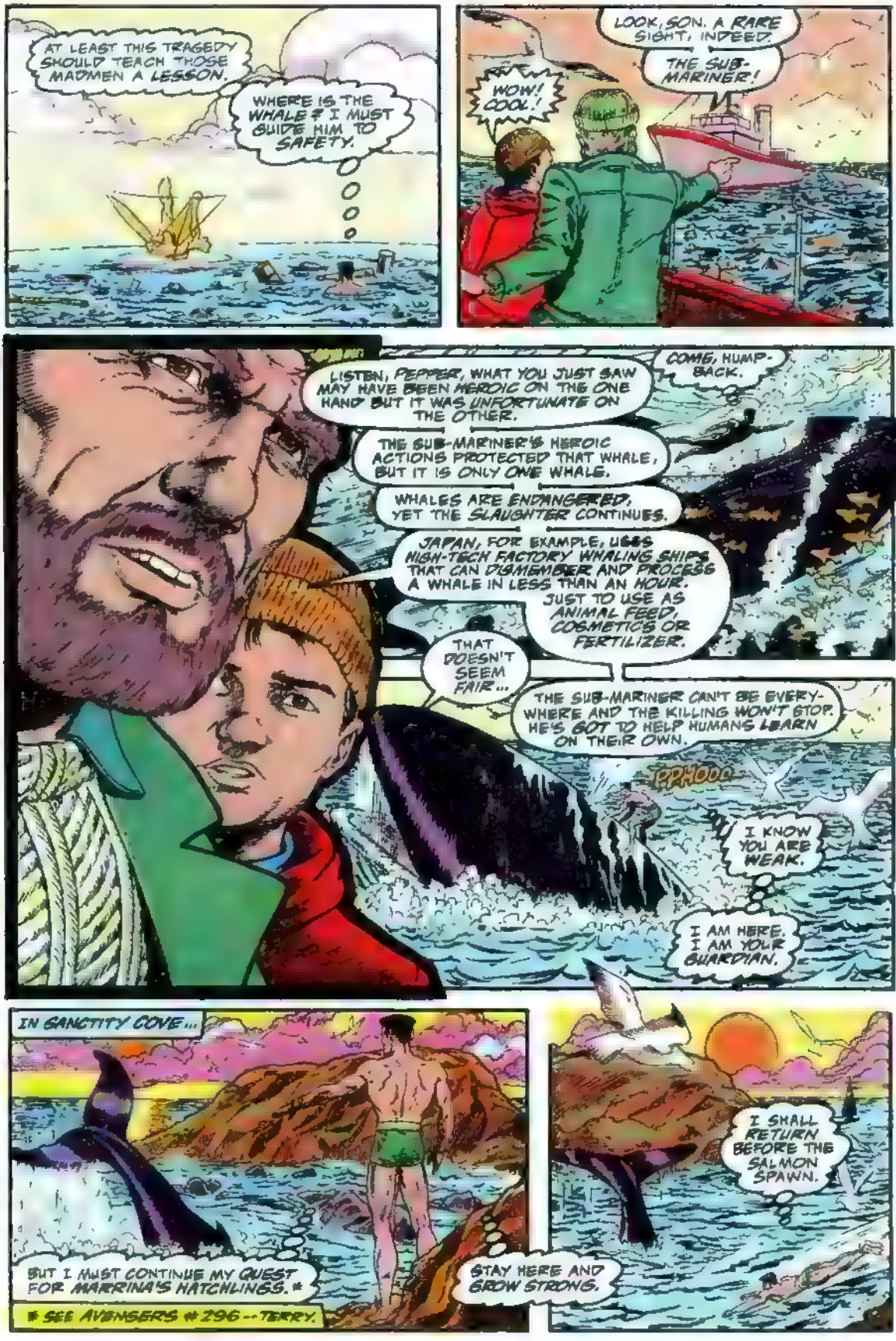
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
WHAT COULD I DO?
SOME CHOICE -- A DEAD HUSBAND OR A BROTHER IN JAIL FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!
IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT.
EVERY BEING IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN ACTIONS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOUR BROTHER SHOT HIMSELF EARLIER. RATHER THAN REVEAL ANYTHING ABOUT THIS ORDER, HE ELECTED TO KILL HIMSELF.
HIS FRIEND TRIED ALSO, BUT I WAS ABLE TO STOP HIM.
THE WORDS ARE HARD FOR ME TO SAY. THE HOPELESSNESS OF THIS WOMAN'S SITUATION IS HARD FOR ME TO ACCEPT.
NO!

STOP
DEATH IS NOT A RELEASE FROM YOUR PAIN...
LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT DEATH IS LIKE...
AND BY ALLOWING HER TO TOUCH MY LIFE, I SHOW HER DEATH.
IN THE STILLNESS OF MY BRAIN... IN THE DEPTH OF HER MIND, SHE LOOKS FOR ANSWERS. I TELL HER EVENTUALLY, THERE IS NOWHERE ELSE TO LOOK.
SHE SEES THE MEANINGLESSNESS OF EVERYTHING. SHE SEES THE CIRCLE OF DECEIT TO WHICH SHE HAD BEEN COOPTED.
SHE SEES HER HUSBAND AND HER BROTHER -- DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE SAME COIN -- IN THE DARK. SHE SEES THEM IN A NEW LIGHT. AND SHE KNOWS...
I DON'T WANT TO DIE
NO... YOU DON'T.
THAT WOULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING. LIFE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SO MUCH MORE.
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
I DON'T KNOW
YOU CAN REPORT WHAT YOU KNOW TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES
...OR YOU CAN NEW AND CLOSE YOUR MIND TO THE TRUTH. THE POINT IS -- YOU CAN MAKE THE CHOICE...
...ARE YOU WILLING TO TRY?
SHE RESISTS IT, HATING HER TOUCH BEFORE AND FOUND IT LACKING IN LIFE AND IMMORTALITY.
BUT WHEN SHE DOES ALLOW ME TO TOUCH HER SHE FINDS NOTHING BUT EVERYTHING.
THE ARMY DOES NOT ESCAPE ME...
THE END.

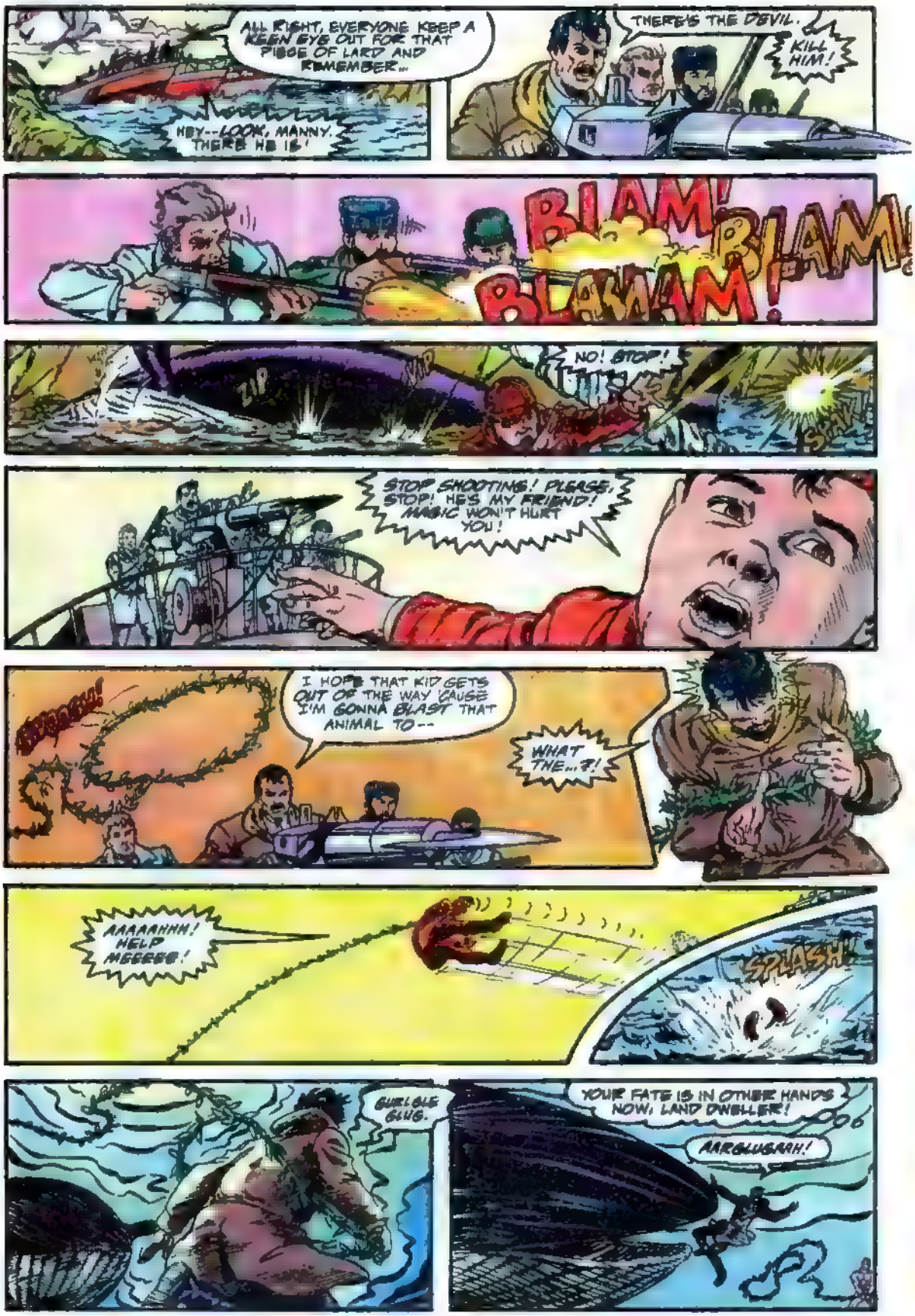
THE SUB-MARINER, DEPOSED KING OF ATLANTIS, IS SEARCHING THE WATERS OF THE NORTHERN ATLANTIC OCEAN NEAR ICELAND WHEN SUDDENLY AN EERIE HAUNTING SOUND PIERCES THE COLD, DARK WATER...
EEEWOOEEOOEE
WHAT A CHILLING DISTRESS SONG. IT IS HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL BUT SO TROUBLED... SO LONELY.
I KNOW THE SOUND. I FEEL THE PAIN.
I MUST HELP!
FEATURING:
SUB-MARINER
THE EYE THAT SEES
EEEWWOOEEOOEES
AS I THOUGHT--A HUMPBACK WHALE.
HE SINGS OF DEATH, OF A SLAUGHTER...
MY POOR GENTLE BROTHER OF THE SEA, VICTIM OF THE CHANGING TIDE WHICH TRAPPED YOU IN THIS SMALL COVE. YOU ARE WEAK...
...AND DANGER APPROACHES.
...BY THE SURFACE WORLD.


DAD, LOOK!
OH, NO--THE SABATINE BROTHERS!
THEY'RE WHALE HUNTING, SON. LET'S STAY OUT OF THEIR WAY...
#@!%#! WE MISSED! HEY, FARLEY, GET YOUR LITTLE BOAT READY FOR A CHASE!
AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN MANNY. JUST DON'T RUN INTO US.
DON'T GET SMART WITH ME, LITTLE BROTHER. I WAS HUNTING WHALES LONG BEFORE YOU WERE WALKING...
MANNY SABATINE IS A PRO. TAKE NOTE, FARLEY, YOU COULD LEARN A FEW THINGS.
KABOOM
FWOOMM
BY THE CRYSTAL CORAL OF CARAMAYO, I SHALL NEVER UNDERSTAND THE BLIND STUPIDITY OF HUMANS!
THEY MUST SHOW THEIR SUPERIORITY WITH EXPLODING HARPOONS...
..AIMED AT A TRAPPED TARGET--
--A "SITTING DUCK" AS THEY CALL IT.
THERE IS NO REASON, NO SPORT IN KILLING SUCH A GRACEFUL CREATURE.
HE IS ALONE. I MUST PROTECT HIM.
I AM THE AVENGING SON!

I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO MISS ANYTHING, FARLEY SO TRY TO KEEP UP.
DON'T WORRY. FULL THROTTLE! LET'S GET THE SUCKER!
THIS WHALE IS DEAD MEAT.
WEEHAW!
I MUST STOP THEM THIS PIECE OF DEBRIS MAY HELP
IF I CAN JUST CAUSE THIS BOAT TO RUN OFF COURSE...
THE RUDDER...
...OR STOP IT ALTOGETHER.
SKANG!
NOW!
THIS SHOULD DRAW SOME ATTENTION!
SALAMBO
WE'RE GOING TOO FAST!
KOJJ
BADOOM!
THE SURFACE WORLD CAN'T BE HELPED. I MEANT ONLY TO STOP THE ONE CRAFT - THEIR OWN UNCONTROLLED AGGRESSION CAUSED THE EXPLOSION!
HERE, HUMANS, HERE IS SOME OF YOUR BOAT BACK!
ANYBODY SEEN FARLEY?
I THINK I SAW HIM GO UNDER
ANYBODY SEE HIM COME UP?
WHERE'S MY BROTHER?


AT LEAST THIS TRAGEDY SHOULD TEACH THOSE MADMEN A LESSON.
WHERE'S THE WHALE? I MUST GUIDE HIM TO SAFETY.
LOOK, SON. A RARE SIGHT, INDEED.
THE SUB-MARINER!
WOW! COOL!
LISTEN, PEPPER, WHAT YOU JUST SAW MAY HAVE BEEN HEROIC ON THE ONE HAND BUT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE ON THE OTHER.
COME, HUMP-BACK.
THE SUB-MARINER'S HEROIC ACTIONS PROTECTED THAT WHALE, BUT IT IS ONLY ONE WHALE.
WHALES ARE ENDANGERED, YET THE SLAUGHTER CONTINUES.
JAPAN, FOR EXAMPLE, USES HIGH-TECH FACTORY WHALING SHIPS THAT CAN DISMEMBER AND PROCESS A WHALE IN LESS THAN AN HOUR. JUST TO USE AS ANIMAL FEED, COSMETICS OR FERTILIZER.
THAT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR...
THE SUB-MARINER CAN'T BE EVERY-WHERE AND THE KILLING WON'T STOP. HE'S GOT TO HELP HUMANS LEARN ON THEIR OWN.
PPHOOO
I KNOW YOU ARE WEAK.
I AM HERE. I AM YOUR GUARDIAN.
IN SANCTITY COVE...
BUT I MUST CONTINUE MY QUEST FOR MARRINA'S HATCHLINGS. *
* SEE AVENGERS #296 -- TERRY.
STAY HERE AND GROW STRONG.
I SHALL RETURN BEFORE THE SALMON SPAWN.

SOON...
ROAR RR
SEEZ-- IT'S THAT WHALE. HE MUST BE LIVING HERE IN SANCTITY COVE
HI, MR. WHALE. I'M PEPPER.
DON'T WORRY YOUR SECRET'S SAFE WITH ME, MR... UH...
...I THINK I'LL CALL YOU "MAGIC" AFTER MY FAVORITE AMERICAN BASKETBALL PLAYER.
YOU'RE AS GRACEFUL AS HE IS...
...BUT I GUESS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT BASKETBALL.
I'VE NEVER HAD A WHALE AS A FRIEND BEFORE.
I PROMISE I'LL VISIT EVERY DAY.
WEEKS LATER...
MORNING, MAGIC. CAN YOU HELP ME FISH AGAIN TODAY?
I THOUGHT SO.
NEAR THE HARBOR...
THE MONSTER WAS HUGE. IT ATTACKED AND...
...KILLED MY BROTHER.
FARLEY SABATINE IS DEAD.
AND MANNY SABATINE WANTS REVENGE!
AND I NEED ALL OF YOU TO HELP ME LOOK FOR THAT WHALE!
WEEKS PASS...
THANKS, MAGIC.
GET ME MANNY SABATINE ON THE RADIO...
THERE'S BEEN A SIGHTING! THEY FOUND THE #@%!?! KILLER LIVIN' IN SANCTITY COVE!
WHO'S WITH ME? TOBIAS?
I DUNNO, MANNY.
FOR GOD'S SAKE, TOBY JR. LOST A HAND IN THE BOAT COLLISION!
I NEED VOLUNTEERS! I NEED WEAPONS! WHO'S MAN ENOUGH?
WHO'LL HELP ME SLAUGHTER THAT WHALE?
WHO'S GONNA HELP AVENGE MY LITTLE BROTHER'S DEATH AND TOBY'S METAL HAND?


ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE KEEP A KEEN EYE OUT FOR THAT PIECE OF LARD AND REMEMBER...
HEY--LOOK, MANNY. THERE HE IS!
THERE'S THE DEVIL.
KILL HIM!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
ZIP
NO! STOP!
STOP SHOOTING! PLEASE, STOP! HE'S MY FRIEND! MAGIC WON'T HURT YOU!
I HOPE THAT KID GETS OUT OF THE WAY 'CAUSE I'M GONNA BLAST THAT ANIMAL TO--
WHAT THE..?!
AAAAAHHH! HELP MEEEE!
SPLASH!
GURGLE GLUG.
YOUR FATE IS IN OTHER HANDS NOW, LAND DWELLER!
AARGLUGARH!

HOLY @&$%!!
WOOOAH!
STEADY, NOW.
HEY, MISTER, YOU OKAY?
DID YA SEE? MAGIC HELPED YOU INTO THE BOAT!
SEE--WHALES AREN'T YOUR ENEMY.
MAGIC DOESN'T WANT TO HURT YOU. HE'S FRIENDLY. HE EVEN HELPS ME FISH.
JUST LOOK, MISTER. LOOK IN THE WHALE'S EYE. AND YOU'LL SEE HOW GENTLE, KIND...
...AND INTELLIGENT HE IS.
...INTELLIGENT HE IS.
FORGIVE ME.
YOU DIDN'T KILL FARLEY...
...I DID.
I'VE BEEN BLIND TO YOUR BEAUTY FOR TOO LONG.

TWO MONTHS LATER...
HIYA, PEGGY. WANNA GO WHALE WATCHING?
WHALEWATCHER
YOU'LL GET A LOOK AT ONE OF THE MOST GRACEFUL ANIMALS YOU'VE EVER SEEN.
WOULDN'T MISS IT, MANNY.
I'M JUST WAITING ON BOB AND ANNIE.
OKAY, GUYS. YOU'RE IN FOR A TREAT. IT'S A GORGEOUS DAY AND I THINK WE MIGHT RUN INTO A FRIEND OF MINE.
WE'LL USE THE "CURIOUS APPROACH" METHOD AND LET THE WHALES COME TO US.
IT'S A REAL THRILL, ESPECIALLY IF YOU GET TO LOOK INTO A HUMPBACK'S EYE.
I APPROACH THE HOME OF MY LEVIATHAN FRIEND. I HAVE THOUGHT OF HIM A LOT THESE PAST MONTHS.
LEWOO
WELOO
THAT SOUND...
ALL IS WELL. MY WORK IS DONE.
THIS WHALE IS SAFE...
THE LAST TWO MONTHS HAVE BROUGHT NO SIGN OF MARRINA'S HATCHLINGS...
...BUT I SHALL CONTINUE MY QUEST.
"...BUT, I WORRY FOR THE FUTURE OF HIS KIND."
WOOOW!
LOOK OVER THERE!
MANNY, THIS IS TERRIFIC!
WEEE!
MOM, THE WHALE LOOKED AT ME!
HOPEFULLY, NOT THE END.

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

℅ MARVEL COMICS GROUP-387 Park Avenue South-New York, New York-10016

Attention correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry and Kelly,

I just wanted to let you know that I thoroughly enjoyed MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #37!

Excalibur's "Having a Wild Weekend" Part VII was an enjoyable story. Even though, for the most part, I hate mutants, this serial has been surprisingly good. Erik Larsen's pencils are a perfect match for Michael Higgins' whimsical scripting. Michael has me sitting on the edge of my seat until he reveals who's behind everything in issue #38.

Black Panther's "Panther's Quest" part XV was unbelievable! Don McGregor has mastered the art of telling a good story in the MCP format. Sure it wasn't a particularly surprising ending, but it sure was revealing. It's hard to believe that this storyline started almost a year ago. I can't wait for the trade paperback and his new series to come out (hint, hint).

The Devil-Slayer story by Dwight Zimmerman was pretty good. This is the first time I've read anything with him in it, but I hope it's not the last. It would be very interesting to have Devil-Slayer and his shadow cloak meet up with Cloak (sans Dagger) in these pages. Perhaps Devil-Slayer could help Cloak with his demon in his cloak (just a thought).

John F. Kuczaj
6223 W. Roscoe St.
Chicago, IL 60634

Thank you for your time, John. We'll try to fit in a Jack of Hearts story some time in the future just for you. We'll consider this Devil-Slayer and Cloak thing you've suggested also. In the meantime, check out this issue and the next two for more Devil-Slayer. For now, though, just sit back and read the next letter. . .

Dear Presenters,

The long awaited conclusion of the "Panther's Quest" is finally here with the double-sized presentation in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #37—all I can say is that the climax was well worth the wait. While the Panther appeared to be the driving force in this series, we learn that it was indeed the man beneath the mask that drove the Panther to take the risks that he did. In the end, it was T'Challa's drive that reunited him with his mother. The ending of the story was very touching, and the story even more touching and thought-provoking if one sits down to read it in its entirety, uninterrupted. It was a real gamble running a story the length of "Panther's Quest," but the creative team proved their worth. I truly believe that this story will go down as one of, if not *the*, best Panther story ever told. Congratulations to everyone involved in this project.

Charles S. Novinskie
P.O. Box 1323
Grand Junction, CO 81502

We're glad you enjoyed "Panther's Quest," Charles. We had a lot of fun with the series, too. Read on for more comments. . .

Dear Terry,

It has been pretty much a year now. I think it's time to say thanks.

"Panther's Quest" was remarkable. A magnificent blend of the talents of five extraordinary people. Not since AVENGERS #32 and #33 ("The Sign of the Serpent," 1966) has comicdom seen such a ground breaking examination of an important but often-shunned social issue.

The characterizations throughout the year-long story were poignant and expertly handled. The reader saw the system of Apartheid through the eyes of each of the characters who passed through the story.

Taken individually, the 25 episodes were suspenseful, thought-provoking, and visually powerful. Viewed collectively, "Panther's Quest" was an event that cried out to be represented in a single volume.

I wish to offer my thanks and congratulations to the team of five whose skills, insights, and sensitivities went into this outstanding achievement. I am sorry this story had to end.

Jan C. Childress
82 Pierrepont St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Thank you very much for writing, Jan. Your comments are greatly appreciated by everyone involved in the project.

Dear Marvel Readers Present,

I've been reading MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS for a very long while now, and I thought I'd write to tell what I think about this comic. I thought issue #37 was very well done. The Excalibur series isn't too bad, but since I'm not a very big fan of Excalibur I thought it was just okay. I wouldn't really want to see more Excalibur in the future, though.

The ending to the Black Panther series was just the way I wanted it to be. The whole series was excellent. I really enjoy reading stories about the Black Panther.

The Devil-Slayer story was really good too. I'd never heard of him until now, but I think he's a really great character. Hey, how about a series with Devil-Slayer as the star?

As for future characters I'd like to see, how about Spider-Man, Groo, Punisher, Forge, Rogue, Iceman, Beast, and maybe some villains like Hobgoblin, Absorbing Man, Roughhouse, Bloodsport, Bullet, Madcap, Ammo, and Master Mold? What about a story on the Kingpin?

Lee Mossop
Shellbrook Saskatchewan
Canada

We'll see what we can do with all of your requests, Lee.

Dear Marvel,

Just a few comments on MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #37.

1) Lockheed & Widget— Sorry, but this is the first installment of the Excalibur series that I just didn't care for. I don't mind Lockheed as a sidekick for Kitty, but I just can't stand Widget. But I'm sure next issue's confrontation with Arcade will make for entertaining reading.

2) Black Panther— The only minor complaint I have about this installment is Elmer "Sex 'n' Violence" Gore's attempt to drown T'Challa took up a little too much space. Actually, a few events during the whole series tended to drag maybe a tad too long. But, all in all, it was a very good conclusion to what has been an excellent story.

3) Devil-Slayer— I like this character, but the story, like most of the one-parters, did nothing for me.

I understand Wolverine's going to be back next issue. While I'd rather see some other character without their own book featured instead, the team of Wolfman and Buscema looks like a sure winner. I'm also looking forward to the Hercules series by Bob Layton coming up shortly. I know that's going to be good.

William Blevins
35 W. George
Hazel Park, MI 48030

We hope you liked the Hercules and Wolverine sagas, William. But we think you may have reopened up a whole new can of worms when you brought up the fact that you don't like our single part stories. Now everyone who's against them will feel like he/she can speak up. Here's a case in point. . .

Dear Marvel,

It's over! I can hardly believe it. The Black Panther story has finally ended. And most surprising, it didn't flop out as most of the other features have with their last installment.

I'll admit that it dragged along at times, and I found some installments to be a little less than thrilling, but after reading the final installment, I have to say that it was all worth it. Don tied it all together nicely, and there was definitely a lot to tie together. I think that the Black Panther ran into more trouble and deadly situations in a few days than Thor has in his entire lifetime. It was really beginning to border on the verge of ridiculousness. I mean, how much does a guy have to go through just to get to his mother?!

Ah yes, another of those "crammed into eight pages but still lacking any semblance of an interesting plot" stories. Gee, I'm so glad to see another. Do you think we could have an entire issue with stories like these? Pretty please? One issue without a continuing story, is it too much? I'd definitely put it at the top of my "rip, burn, and toss down the garbage disposal" list. So what do you say?

Shane Hutchison
P.O. Box 580483
Nassau Bay, TX 77258

Boy, Shane, if anyone else requested that we would've just laughed in his face, but for you, we'll see if there's any way possible that it can be done. For now, though, you'll just have to live with one or two single part stories per issue. Sorry!

SUB-MARINER
VS.
THE IGNORANCE OF MAN!
DEVIL-SLAYER
VS
THE FLYING DUTCHMAN!
NAMORITA
VS.
THE TCHDOGS!